

To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

## The National Tribune.

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JOHN McILROY, Editor.

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As we go to press Bourke Cockran was still a Democrat.

No silver dollars were coined last year, for the first time since 1839.

Will the inevitable rescuing party have to follow Wellman to the north pole in air ships?

As might have been expected, the American who is at the head of the disturbance on the Isle of Pines is a Kansas man.

Cads who were not able to get invitations to the Longworth-Roosevelt wedding took their revenge by inventing scandalous stories about the parties.

The Chinese have a larger country than the United States, and much of it is no more thickly populated than our Far West. Why can they not stay at home and develop their own country?

Mr. Beavers has been added to the Post Office colony in the penitentiary at Mount Vernon, W. Va. That institution has now as remarkable a collection of postal experts as can be found in the world.

The Russian authorities seem to have far more success in excluding healthful literature from their country than in keeping out dynamite. People have difficulty in getting letters and newspapers, but the insurgents none at all in bringing in explosives.

In proposing a monument to Capt. Wirz the Daughters of the Confederacy have struck the most wicked and malignant blow at harmony between the sections that devilish ingenuity could devise. Women who would glorify the crimes for which Wirz was punished are beyond the power of words to stigmatize.

Senator Elmer J. Burkett, of Nebraska, is doing remarkably well for so young a man and so new a Senator. He is constantly in his seat or in committee rooms; studies carefully every question presented, and is as unobtrusive as the older Senators think a youngster should be, and, therefore, is making many friends.

Though his personal appearance is not striking and his manner unassuming to the last degree, Senator W. Murray Crane, of Massachusetts, has made an astonishing headway since he entered the Senate. He has a cool judgment, which the older Senators are learning to seek, and he is very often called to the White House to consult upon the legislative program.

With all their monarchy the Germans are at heart republican and their judiciary maintains a high plane. Lately the Prussian courts have overruled the Kaiser by confirming Col. Baedke in his title of Colonel upon the retired list against the Kaiser's order that he be stricken from the rolls. Col. Baedke is a military writer, and his sharp strictures have grievously offended the Kaiser and Court.

Representative Brooks, of Colorado, has introduced a bill, which has received a favorable report from the Committee on Mines and Mining, to create the office of Commissioner of Mines and Mining. The bill contemplates the establishment of a new bureau, having a full equipment of clerks, etc., and the additional expense is very shocking to the economical ideas of the Committee on Appropriations.

May 15 has been suggested as the date for the close of this session. With general "leave to print" this may be accomplished. The real work of Congress has been well prepared in the committee rooms, where all that is worth while saying has been said by the members of the committees and the interested delegations. If Congress will have the members' speeches printed for the benefit of their constituents, instead of taking time to listen to them, the business can be rapidly closed up.

Senator Dillingham would amend the Immigration laws very materially by adding to the number of the classes of excluded aliens. He would bar out, besides imbeciles and feeble-minded persons, all those whom the examining surgeon shall pronounce as being mentally or physically defective to such an extent as to affect their ability to earn a living; and aliens who have committed a felony or felonies are to be excluded, and also women and girls coming here for immoral purposes.

The special session of the Pennsylvania Legislature, called to consider much-needed reforms, has passed four bills, which have received the Governor's signature. The first compels personal registration, and abolishes the system by which from 50,000 to 80,000 bogus names were kept on the registration list of Philadelphia. The second is a primary election law, which provides that all the parties shall nominate their candidates the same day at the same polling places. The third provides a system by which the State surplus of \$10,000,000 shall be deposited at interest in certain banks, and prevents the State officials from showing favoritism. The fourth reappoints the Senatorial representation according to population.

### THE MONUMENT TO CAPT. WIRZ.

There can be nothing else than a clear intent to deeply insult the loyal people of the Nation in the movement started by the Daughters of the Confederacy to erect a monument to Capt. Wirz, of Andersonville infamy. This is particularly unfortunate at a time when everyone else is doing his or her best to allay the animosities and hatreds engendered by the war. The action of the Daughters has the look of devilish malignity. It recalls the old tales of mythology where the Goddess of Discord with her heart cackling at the sight of the loving harmony of the other gods and goddesses, conjures her baleful brain for some device to set them at strife.

The colossal tragedy of Andersonville, Belle Isle, Salisbury and Libby is the one wholly indefensible, excusable thing in the history of the so-called Southern Confederacy. There never can be any palliation for it. The wantonness of the horror can be in no manner obscured or diminished. The utmost that can be done is to think of it as little as possible. This the Daughters of the Confederacy are determined the country shall not do. They come out to glorify the principal, the one figure in the war which is associated with its most pitiable and criminal phase, and for which they, as adherents of the Lost Cause, have most reason to blush before the civilized world.

For all else that was done in the name of the Southern Confederacy there can be some excuse or justification. They can say with reason that the provisions of the Constitution were so equivocal that they found warrant for secession, and for the doing of military acts that would make that secession prevail. That they were utterly wrong in this is emphatically the verdict of the whole civilized world. Yet they believed they were right at the time, and what they did might have been an honest mistake, though it was one of colossal calamity, which, had it been successful, would have wrought unspeakable detriment to humanity.

There can be no such excuse for their treatment of the Union prisoners. This was a display of barbarism worthy of the most brutal ages of humanity. It harked back to a time when men were savages and it was the logical accompaniment, or one might say the result, of the civilization which approved the tearing away from their homes in Africa of shipboard after shipboard of unhappy negroes to bring them to this country to wear out their lives in unrequited toil for their captors and purchasers.

Men who had sanctioned that nefarious practice would be capable of starving to death tens of thousands of unfortunate Union soldiers in Belle Isle, Salisbury, Andersonville and Camp Tyler.

The plea put forward by the Daughters that the Government was responsible for these horrors because it refused to exchange prisoners is absurd even for women to make. The policy of the Government with regard to exchanges had absolutely nothing to do with the case. The Confederates were bound to treat their prisoners with humanity, regardless of anything else. We have seen this illustrated by the heathen nation Japan, which has received the world's praise for the kindly generosity it displayed toward the Russians whom it captured and without retaliation for the barbarities well known to have been practiced upon the Japanese prisoners.

The interruption of the exchange was caused by the grossest bad faith of the Southern Confederacy as to the prisoners paroled at Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and our Government stood ready to continue the exchange whenever the Confederacy gave signs of abiding by its engagements. But this, as we have said before, is outside the real matter. Our Government had the most absolute right to refuse exchange for any reason, and this did not give the slightest justification to the Southern Confederacy for torturing to death the unfortunate soldiers who fell into its hands.

The prisoners of war were deliberately starved in a country abounding in supplies, and where Sherman found ample food for his great army of 60,000 men in his triumphant march to the sea. The Daughters also say that Wirz was made a martyr because he refused to implicate Jefferson Davis. This is quite as absurd as the previous pretext. The culpability of Jefferson Davis for the systematic cruelties to the prisoners was completely established without asking a single question of Capt. Wirz. The reports to Jefferson Davis from the Inspectors sent thither by the Confederate War Department, furnished all the proof that was needed for that. Capt. Wirz was hanged very justly for cruelties he committed over and above what his instructions implied. He was not hanged for the starvation of prisoners, nor for their confinement without shelter or means of cleanliness in that awful pen. He was hanged because in addition to this he had shot and killed men, had stamped the lives out of men, and committed other voluntary cruelties that deserved death. All this is fully established by the evidence adduced upon his trial, and is open to anyone who chooses to read. The Daughters of the Confederacy can not pretend ignorance. They are fully aware that the mention of Andersonville and Capt. Wirz sends the deepest pang of any memory of the war to innumerable loyal hearts. In this recent movement they have deliberately sought a way to wound most cruelly and lastingly all those who gave their loved ones to die that the Nation might live. Above all it is a premeditated, brutal insult to every relative of the 14,000 brave men who passed through the gates of torture to the release and rest of the cemetery at Andersonville.

The Annual Convention of the United Mine Workers of America gave more support to the good roads movement by a resolution in favor of letting the convicts be employed in road building. The tendency of the public mind seems to be in the direction of such employment, and the sooner it can be made a general policy the better it will be for the cause of improving our highways.

New York has begun active work on the construction of a great \$100,000,000 canal, and this without any of the fuss and trouble that has accompanied the inception of the Panama Canal project. The dirt is certainly flying between Lake Erie and the Hudson. If not between the Atlantic and Pacific.

### GRAFT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The most astounding case of graft in the Philippines appears to be the work of the friars. The Roman Catholics all over the world are aroused to indignation by the manner in which the friars have looted the Church in the Archipelago. When the Government paid them some \$7,000,000 in compensation for their property in the Islands, it was expected that the greater part of this money would remain in the Archipelago for the support of religion. Pope Leo XIII. explicitly and positively promised Mr. Taft that this should be so, and instructions were cabled to the Delegate Apostolic to unfrock the Superiors of the Orders if they did not turn over to him the money received, to be held in trust until the Holy See should make a final disposition of the money. The present Pope renewed these instructions, but the then Apostolic Delegate died, and before his successor could be appointed the friars put the money "out of reach of Pope or Delegate." The result is that the Church in the Islands is in a pitiable condition of poverty, with hundreds of parishes vacant. The Western Watchman, of St. Louis, the leading Roman Catholic paper in the West, says:

"There is not a Catholic in the United States to-day who would touch a dollar of the money stolen from the poor Catholic Philippines; but the sack of holy poverty does not refuse to have a long sleeve of the friar will conceal it."

Father Phelan, who has been investigating the matter, says:

"If ever there was 'tainted money' it was that stolen by the friars from the spoliation of the Philippines. As the history of that spoliation is written the more sacrilegious does it appear. The conduct of the monks has brought disgrace on their Orders and on the Holy See."

"As for the faithful, they will insist on knowing why monks who came into the ministry on the plea that they did not want, and would not have money, now forget their vow and place \$9,000,000 of 'tainted money' above the 12,000,000 of souls they left behind, and in the end being eternally lost, in the Philippines."

The American Bishops in the Islands are making urgent cries for priests, but there is not even money enough to pay the passage of the young priests in this country who are eager to go to that field of labor. The New England Catholics have recently sent money enough to England to pay the passage of six or eight priests to the Archipelago.

### DEATH OF MCCALL.

John A. McCall, until recently President of the New York Life Insurance Company, died Feb. 18, in Lakewood, N. J., whither he had been taken some weeks ago in hopes of improvement from the breakdown which followed the revelations of the investigating committee. This ends a career that had much of the highest credit in it, and only failed in the latter part by reason of acts pronounced indefensible. It may be said in mitigation that Mr. McCall found himself in bad company and felt compelled to do as others were doing. Any measuring up of the allegations against him will show him less culpable, probably, than the other managers of great insurance companies. The specific act which brought upon him the severest censure were unaccounted payments of \$235,000 to Judge Andrew Hamilton, Mr. McCall's boyhood friend. Undoubtedly a large portion of this money was used in bribing legislators and meeting threatened hostile legislation. McCall promised that Hamilton would explain what had been done with the money, but the explanation which Hamilton sent from Paris did not explain, and McCall was compelled to make good the amount, which he did by a mortgage of his fine Summer home. In addition to the specific \$235,000 that was recovered there were other payments carrying the total amount up to \$1,164,000. Mr. McCall was born in Albany, N. Y., in 1849 of Irish parents, and his father kept a little grocery store and was a political boss. Young McCall began as a clerk and obtained his first training in insurance as bookkeeper in the Connecticut Life agency at Albany. He went into the State Insurance Department in 1869, showed great ability and industry and was retained by the Republican Insurance Commissioners, although he remained a Democrat. He did good work in the office in straightening out the life and fire insurance business in New York, which was in a bad condition, and stopped many frauds and illegal practices by his rigid supervision. He was instrumental in driving out of business 12 fire companies and 18 life companies inside of seven years. Gov. Grover Cleveland promoted him to Superintendent of Insurance and Gov. Hill tried to get him to accept a reappointment, but he had become too valuable for that position, and entered the Equitable's employ at \$15,000 a year. Six years later he became President of the New York Life at a salary of \$75,000. The Company at that time was in a bad way owing to the disclosure of many corrupt practices, and McCall did a great work in reorganizing the Company and restoring confidence in it.

The letter of Justice Rufus W. Peckham, of the New York Supreme Court, to the Mutual Insurance Company Investigating Committee, will tend strongly to improve the situation, by its clear, definite pronouncement upon the actualities. Justice Peckham thinks that Richard A. McCurdy, the ex-President, is clearly liable to the law for his malversation of the policy-holders' money, and that immediate suit should be begun against him, so that he should not be allowed to leave for Europe, and place himself beyond the reach of the courts. The President of the company replies that Justice Peckham shall have no reason to find fault with his action. The value of this letter of Justice Peckham is that it clearly stamps the unlawfulness of what McCurdy and others of that ilk have claimed were at the most but irregularities, and within the proper scope of their privileges. It gives a much-needed admonition to insurance officers everywhere to moderate their greed if they would keep on the safe side of the legal dead-line.

New York has begun active work on the construction of a great \$100,000,000 canal, and this without any of the fuss and trouble that has accompanied the inception of the Panama Canal project. The dirt is certainly flying between Lake Erie and the Hudson. If not between the Atlantic and Pacific.

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### WEST-VIRGINIA POLITICS.

Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, is an above-the-average good guesser, but he occasionally misses, and his last miss is very unfortunate, for it occurred within a year of his coming up for re-election. He started out last Summer with the proposition that he was going to settle the railroad question, and called his committee together some months before the opening of the session, with the announcement that a bill would be prepared that Congress would pass with some promptness, and thus get the question out of the road early in the session. The Senator is charged with being entirely too friendly to the corporations, and his bill supported the view that he was trying to fix up things so as to shut off the demand for railroad regulation in the way that the railroads would have it. He stuck firmly to his bill, until recently, when Gov. Dawson, of his State, smoked him out by a letter to Senator Tillman. Dawson loves Elkins not, and is believed to have aspirations for his seat. This Dawson denies most positively, and asserts that he proposes to serve as Governor until the end of his term. He does not say, however, that he will not support someone else for Elkins's seat, or that he will not be a candidate at the end of his gubernatorial term. Senator Elkins finds it very necessary to square himself with the West Virginians, and he comes out with an avowal that he has been in accordance with the President's views from the very first, a thing which no one has heretofore suspected. Senator Elkins is notoriously hard to corner, but he has evidently need of his utmost agility. It is asserted that Representatives Dwyer, Gaines and Hughes have been from the first opposed to Elkins's bill, while Woodyard has supported it.

### KNOX FOR PRESIDENT.

A formidable boom for Senator Philander Q. Knox for President is formally announced from Pittsburgh, and is said to have behind it unlimited money, powerful corporations, a strong political coalition, and the Leader, the principal afternoon paper in Pittsburgh. The boom began with the coalition of the Citizens and the Regular Republican factions in Pittsburgh, which brings in most of the leading politicians. The Leader was bought and taken away from the support of the Democratic Reform candidate for Mayor, and the Frick-Pennsylvania-Standard-Oil syndicate was brought into line. It is proposed to buy one of the big Philadelphia dailies, and as Knox was in active sympathy with the movement which would co-operate with that in Pittsburgh, it is also claimed that Cassatt, Harriman and Hill will actively support him with their immense influence. President Roosevelt's selection of Knox to represent him in railroad legislation has given his boom great assistance.

Pennsylvania has had many candidates, but not a President since James Buchanan was elected just 50 years ago. Since that time Illinois has had one, Indiana one, Ohio four, and New York three.

Senator Knox is a very able man, and would make a good President, but the array of forces behind his candidacy is not such as would seem to commend it to the people.

### GERMANY'S DESCENT FROM THE PERCH.

The funniest event in diplomacy of recent years is the way that Germany's bluff of a tariff war was called. Germany started out with a great deal of trumpeting through the press as to her dire intents with regard to American products, and after March 1, we were going to suffer terrible injuries to our trade with that country, owing to the fact that she had determined to put us out of the favored Nation class. She had concluded treaties with Italy, Austria and Russia which gave them decided advantages, and we would be left slivering in the cold. For once the exporters in our own country refused to be terrified and laughed at Germany's threats. The only people who seemed to be scared were Secretary Root and some other members of the Cabinet. The Senate stood very pat, and refused Mr. Root's overtures for a modification of our tariff laws. It even threatened retaliation, and had several bills in stew to impose punitive duties upon goods coming from a country which discriminated against American products. Mr. Root was reluctantly compelled to convey to the German Chancellor his inability to help them, and they must prepare for the worst. Now the German Chancellor is trying to find some way to save its face and climb down off the perch. As The National Tribune has said, the products which we sell to Germany are sold at a very low margin of profit, and they cannot be procured from any other Nation as good in quality and as cheap. Germany has been trying to buy elsewhere for years, and has done our products all the damage that she possibly could, with the result of a failure in her efforts. She can no longer get as good cotton, lard, pork, wheat, flour, etc., as from America. On the other hand, she sells us an immense amount of high-priced goods upon which she makes an enormous profit. A little disturbance of this trade will cause our merchants to seek to obtain them from England and France to the great detriment of the German manufacturers of wines, aniline colors, cotton goods, etc., etc. Therefore, she stands to lose much and we nothing in any fight that she may precipitate. Her threatened tariff war was therefore a very transparent bluff, and does not increase her prestige in diplomacy.

The reports from Atlanta say that the Confederate veterans attempted to have a Confederate flag wrapped around Joe Wheeler's coffin as it was placed in the grave, but the War Department would not permit this, and the Stars and Stripes lay on the coffin. It looks singular that there should be such a request made by reasonable men. If Gen. Wheeler was buried as an officer of the United States Army it was unreasonable to the last degree to expect that the flag around the remains should be that which had been in bitter rebellion against the Government. There was room for but one flag and that was the flag under which he was serving when he died.

Admiral Rojestvensky makes a novel defense for his defeat, in which he says virtually that the universal corruption in Russia was responsible. Thieves built and equipped his vessels with inferior guns, plates and ammunition. The plates were cracked even when the Japanese shells exploded near them and opened great leaks. If the Admiral's explanation is only partially true, it gives a revelation of a deeper corruption in Russian official circles than has ever been alleged.

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### THE RAILWAY RATE BILL.

The Hepburn bill has now been before the Senate Committee for nearly two weeks, during which time it has been a matter of tremendous interest to the Committee and the Senators. All of the Senators have views more or less pronounced as to what legislation is needed, but they are expressing these views with considerable care and an eye to the effect upon the White House and the country. The look toward the White House is probably the more intense, since there is a growing conviction that the President's position is a certain index of the popular feeling. The present alignment seems to be on the question of revision, and upon this there is a well-defined demarcation in the Committee, and it looks as if this would extend to the Senate and be the line of battle there. The railroads seem to be fighting for what is termed the Review Amendment. That is, that the courts shall be authorized to review the rates of the railroads. Every Senator, however, who supports such an amendment, is in the very nature of things, a right to appeal to the court against anything which he considers unjust. The railroads insist that the right to appeal shall be actually stated in the bill, and there probably will be an accession to this demand. The President, consenting and selecting Senator Knox to carry the amendment. This is a very delicate matter, as the opponents of the review clause fear that it will be taken to prevent the operation of the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission until the time has passed for which relief was asked. For example, it may be allowed to rush an immense lot of wheat to market to meet some emergency, or the same may be true in regard to cotton or oil. The railroad takes advantage of the needs of the shippers to greatly raise the rates. The shippers appeal to the Interstate Commerce Commission for a modification of the rates, and the Commission issues the required order, to which the railroad replies by an appeal to the court suspending the Commission's action. Before the courts can act upon the matter the emergency may have passed, the demand for those goods have been filled, the railroads have been victorious in raising the rates, and the shippers have been ruined. This is what the anti-reviewists seek to guard against. Any bill of the Senate will regard to a measure before that body must always be received with the greatest caution, but the following is given as the most likely way in which the Senators stand at present:

For review—Messrs. Aldrich, Alger, Allee, Ankeny, Brandegee, Bulkeley, Burket, Burnham, Burrows, Carter, Crane, Dewey, Dick, Dillenger, Dryden, Elkins, Flint, Foraker, Fulton, Frye, Gallinger, Hale, Hansbrough, Hendricks, Keane, Kittredge, Knickerbocker, Knox, Lodge, Penrose, Perkins, Piles, Platt, Proctor, Scott, Spooner, Warren and Wetmore—a total of 28, and all Republicans.

Against review—Messrs. Bacon, Bailey, Berry, Blackburn, Carmack, Clark, Clark of Montana, Clarke of Arkansas, Cull, Culberson, Cullom, Daniel, Doolittle, Dubois, Frazier, Gorman, Gorman, La Follette, Latimer, McCleary, McLaughlin, Nelson, Newlands, Overman, Patterson, Rayner, Simmons, Stone, Tallaferro, Teller and Tillman—a total of 23, and all Democrats except Messrs. Clapp, Cullom, Doolittle, La Follette and Nelson. Republicans.

INSANE ASYLUM SCANDAL. A committee of the Washington Medical-Legal Society has been investigating the conditions at St. Elizabeth's Insane Hospital, near Washington, and has presented a most startling report. It will be brought to the President's attention. There are about 2,500 patients in the asylum, of whom nearly one-half are old soldiers and sailors. The committee finds, in the first place that it is the practice to put these veterans in the hospital upon a mere request from the Governor of a Home which may be 1,000 miles away, and that they are denied all opportunity to prove their sanity. They may be, in fact, immoderately sane, but the larger part of the veteran's pension is taken away from him, and if he ever succeeds in getting discharged he is penniless. He is put in poor quarters and fed with very inferior food, while the money which he has earned is reserved for the pay patients, who are frequently relatives of Government officers and clerks who pay no taxes to support the institution. One of the worst features is what the inmates call the bull-pen, but is officially known as Elkins's Hall, which is a triangular inclosure of about three acres, of which one-half is occupied by buildings. It is surrounded by a brick wall and a high palisade fence. Some of the men confined there have been there for a decade. No occupation is given them, nothing to divert or stimulate their minds, and they are left to their own devices. There are no special diets furnished for cases needing them, but all have the same monotonous fare of corned beef, sweet potatoes, etc. One veteran was found who has been in the bull-pen for seven or eight years, during which time his only food has been taken from the hospital, but he has been allowed \$1 a week for cutting all the wood and carrying all the coal required by the bakery. He works all day long. Winter and Summer, and does about as much as two laborers should do. It is not said that he is insane, but the Superintendent is afraid that "if released evil-minded persons might impose upon him."

The Committee severely criticizes the general management of the Asylum, its frequent cruel treatment of the patients, and its utter lack of progress in methods to keep abreast of the times. There is no segregation of the patient into suitable groups, and criminals are mixed with the sane. There are no soldiers and sailors. The manager of the Insane Hospital, Dr. W. A. White, professes indifference to the report, denies all brutality, and says that he will welcome an investigation even by Congress. One is pretty sure to be made, and that very soon.

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### TRAINING GOVERNORS.

The election of Claude A. Swanson as Governor of Virginia is another indication of the excellence of the House of Representatives as a training-school for Governors. Mr. Swanson had been 10 years in the House before he was put in nomination for Governor. Proctor Knott's Duluth speech made him Governor of Kentucky; James E. Campbell and William McKinley were translated from Congress to the Governorship of Ohio; Govs. Stone and Dockery of Missouri, Gov. Odell of New York, Gov. Stone of Pennsylvania, Govs. Sayres and Lanham of Texas, and Gov. Blanchard of Louisiana, all had similar promotion. The House of Representatives is a most unusual body, and does not have its peer in ability anywhere in the world. Even the English House of Commons, which stands at the head of representative bodies of Europe, is far below it in the average of ability; for while there are many men of the highest grade of intellect in the House of Commons, there are a great many others who are mediocre to a degree which is below the level of the men selected in America. At present each man in the House represents about 200,000 people, and outside of the South the competition for the nomination and election is always very sharp, and so much so as to prevent the selection of anybody but men of quite marked ability and force. Service in the House tends strongly to broaden a man's mind, give him a comprehensive grasp of public affairs and to fit him for the proper administration of a great State.

### FOR AN INCREASED RATE.

Col. W. L. Curry, the active and efficient Commissioner of Soldiers' Claims of Ohio, is always on the lookout for some way to benefit the veterans and their widows. He has started the circulation of a petition among the veterans of the Union army, Spanish War, Ladies' Auxiliary organizations and the citizens of Franklin County to support the efforts of Representative E. L. Taylor in securing the passage of bills favoring veterans, and especially one amending the act of June 27, 1890, to increase the rate of widows' pensions from \$8 to \$12 a month, to add pensions to widows who have married since the enactment of said law, and to raise the income to which the widows are entitled from \$250 to \$300 a year. The petitions are being numerously signed all over Franklin County, which comprises Mr. Taylor's district.

### SUBSIDIZING THE PRESS.

Mr. Robert Kissick, Oskaloosa, Iowa, has a big reform in mind upon which he is stirring up Congress and public opinion. It is that the Representatives of the people should not "subsidize" the press by having editors appointed Postmasters. He says:

"The press in this way is shorn of much of its real power in its capacity as a 'public servant' of the people, and instead of exerting its power for good, it exerts its influence in perhaps many cases to the building up of political machines, in the selfish interests of individuals, regardless of the rights of the people. Certainly this is not in the interests of good Government. Unquestionably, an untrammeled and independent press, though a party press, is a necessity in a Government like ours. Without such a press, it is evident that inefficiency and incompetence in governmental affairs will not be exposed, and we then endeavor to have a pure and free press."

This will strike all who are acquainted with political conditions as exceedingly funny. An editor is not appointed Postmaster in order to muzzle him, but as a reward for his having been a thick-and-thin champion of the Congressman who secured the place for him. The editor who accepts a Postmastership or any other public office is not usually much of an independent, and there is no muzzling in his appointment. He is simply getting paid for past services. He is going to stick to his party and to his political patron under all circumstances. The real muzzling of the press is accomplished in another and much more potential way. It comes most frequently through the advertising department, and this is so gigantic in its effects as to make what little control there is exercised in the way of political patronage seem like peanut business. An editor who accepts an office usually does it at an expense to his influence and prestige in his community, that is not compensated for by the salary that he gets. The editor outside of office has always a great deal more influence than the one in. Mr. Kissick will find much more needed reforms to which he can devote his attention.

Representative Calderhead, of Kansas, is very earnest in his efforts to get free alcohol for use in the arts. He believes that not only will this be of the greatest benefit to many industries which will grow up here, instead of being mainly carried on abroad, but that it will help agriculture, in substituting alcohol for many purposes for which benzine and naphtha are now employed. The French and Germans are strongly fostering the use of alcohol, in the interest of the potato growers. Representative Calderhead's bill is very simple, and after providing for the use of untaxed alcohol in the arts, leaves all the regulations for preventing its becoming drinkable in the hands of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Representatives Hill, of Connecticut; Jones, of Washington; Roberts, of Massachusetts, and Marshall, of North Dakota, have similar bills before the Committee.

### THE PILOT KNOB BATTLEFIELD.

Representative Rhodes, of Missouri, has introduced a bill setting aside 160 acres of land and appropriating \$75,000 for its improvement as a National Park to commemorate the sharp little battle at Pilot Knob by Gen. Ewing's forces in 1864, which had so much to do with defeating Price's raid into Missouri. The ground will embrace old Fort Davidson, where the most of the fighting took place. The Government has already a rifle range there known as the Arcadia range and Grant Springs and the Grant Oak. Under the latter Gen. Grant received his commission as a Brigadier-General of Volunteers. It is marked and around it are several cannon from the battlefield of Shiloh. There is also a monument to Gen. Grant. The Pilot Knob Memorial Association, of which David Murphy, of St. Louis, is President, is deeply interested in the matter and working hard to secure the passage of the bill.

## THE SPIRIT OF CONGRESS.

### Some of the More Notable Proceedings of the Week.

**Senate.**  
Monday, Feb. 12.—The Senate listened to a carefully-prepared speech by Senator Lodge on the railroad-rail question, and then adopted a radical resolution presented by Senator Tillman directing the Interstate Commerce Commission to make a rigid investigation of the alleged control by the Pennsylvania Railroad and its allies of the coal output in Pennsylvania and West Virginia and also of that railroad's alleged control of other products shipped over its lines.  
It is thought that because of the fact that Senator Tillman's resolution is so general in its scope, it will fall of accomplishing anything of particular benefit. Whereas, if he had particularized a little more, he might have secured valuable information, as Congress is in the humor to do as he asked.

**House.**  
During the consideration of District business the whipping-post bill was defeated by 153 to 69.  
A bill requiring the return of freight rebates was passed.  
Conferees on the urgent deficiency bill were appointed.

**Senate.**  
Feb. 13.—The Senate's session was taken up with a discussion of the shipping bill. Senators Allison and Spooner offering amendments, and Senator Galinger defending the measure.  
Mr. Hale reported the hazing bill and gave notice that he would call it up for hearing at an early date.  
The Vice President announced that Mr. McCreary will read Washington's Farewell Address on Feb. 22.

**House.**  
Representative Gillespie made an unsuccessful attempt to discharge the committee having in charge his resolution to look into the cost to the Government of transporting the mails. He also unsuccessfully tried to have spread on the record the grievances of the bituminous coal people against the Pennsylvania Railroad.  
The fortification appropriation bill was considered most of the afternoon. Mr. Williams filibustered on the motor to adjourn, demanding a roll call.

**Senate.**  
Feb. 14.—The Senate passed the ship subsidy bill by a vote of 38 to 27 members. Five Republicans voted against the measure. Only one of several amendments was agreed to that did not meet the approval of the managers of the bill.

**House.**  
The House passed the fortifications bill.  
Efforts to defeat the appropriation of money for fortifications and naval stations about the Philippine Islands were voted down.

**Senate.**  
Feb. 15.—Discussion of the Statehood bill was begun in the Senate. Mr. Dick opened the debate for the bill, and after about an hour a motion was announced that he would finish his argument at the next session.

**House.**  
The House again refused to consider Mr. Payne's bill to consolidate certain customs districts.

A bill was passed increasing the annual bounty granted by the Government to the Agricultural Experiment Station in the various States and Territories.

The law as